

# Black Education Strategy Roundtable

CONVENED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE  
COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

KEY MESSAGES FOR EDUCATION POLICY MAKERS





## Who we are

The Black Education Strategy Roundtable is an informal advisory group convened by the Commission on African American Affairs. The goal of the group is to participate in and respond to the Washington Learns process and to advocate for new policies and programs to improve educational attainment among Black learners at all levels of education in Washington State. Members include:

- Black academicians and researchers who specialize in multi-cultural education
- Business leaders and political leaders in the Black community
- Representatives from a wide range of community-based organizations, civil rights advocacy organizations, and churches
- Educators, school administrators, concerned parents, and other advocates who care about the education of Black children
- Members and/or staff of the Commission on African American Affairs and other advisory councils, commissions, and boards in state government and academia

The Roundtable and its participating organizations convened **four events** with total attendance of more than **250 people** between **May 6 and July 12, 2006**. These events involved the African American community in a conversation about education reform and engaged the Washington Learns process. This document summarizes what we have learned.

# What the Black Community wants

- A statewide strategic plan to close the racial “opportunity and achievement gap,” so that all students in the P-20 education system can meet state standards by 2014
- A public/private partnership to fund and operate local family engagement and empowerment activities and/or “capacity-building” institutes that equip parents/family/guardians to be effective “first teachers” and education advocates for their children
- A public/private partnership to fund and operate more community-based, supplemental education for Black youth in math and reading, including before- and after-school tutoring, Saturday schools, and summer academies
- A statewide school funding and policy package that increases funding for schools AND fundamentally redesigns the school day, week, year, classroom setting, curriculum, and pedagogy practices around the needs and learning styles of students who are not meeting state standards

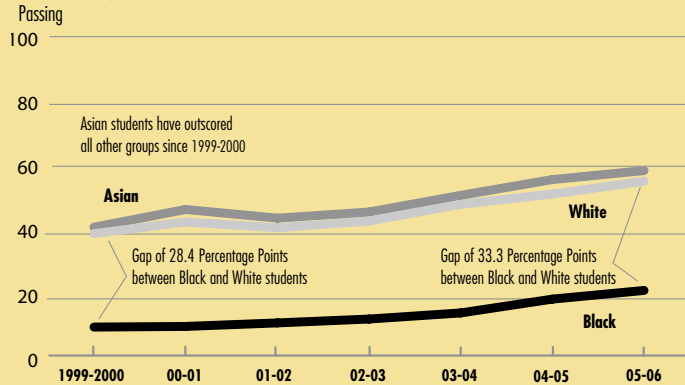
## What we believe

- An “**achievement gap**” and an “**opportunity gap**” exist for Black students. Both must be addressed to ensure that our youth are competitive in the global economy.
- The Black community must actively create/support community-based efforts to **motivate** our youth, restore their hope, and instill a respect for learning.
- Since research has proved that parents/family/guardians are key players in educating children, we must invest a much larger share of education funding to help them perform well in their roles as “first teachers” and education advocates.
- Any statewide education reform effort must expressly speak to the racial **divide in achievement and opportunity** and make investments needed to bridge it.
- Black children can learn and we know the methods that bolster their achievement in the classroom. These methods work for **any child, so using these methods to close the gap for Black children will raise achievement for all children**.
- The same old actions have generated the same old results. It’s time for bold new actions to generate new outcomes for Black youth in public education.

# Why We Must Act Now

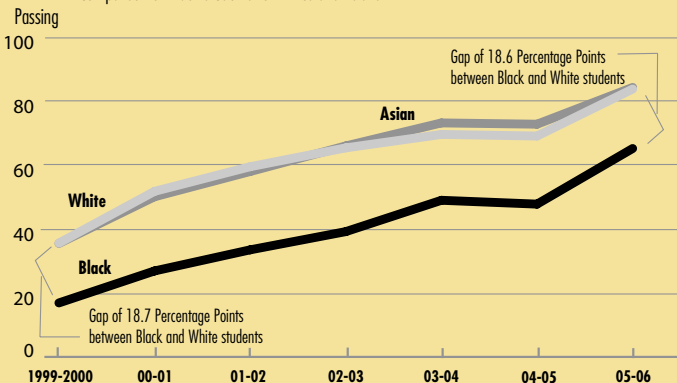
## Racial Gap Widening on WASL Math Scores

Percent Passing Comparison of Black students to Whites and Asians



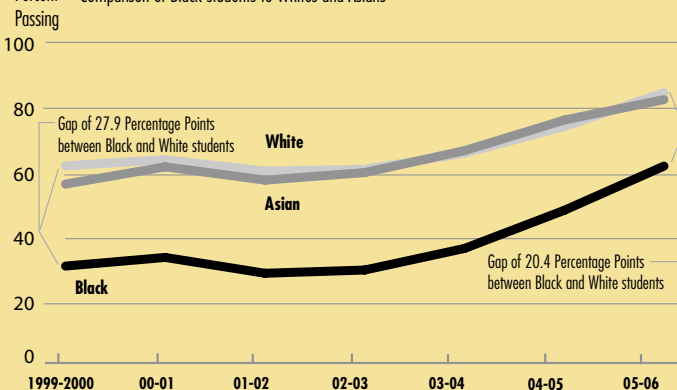
## Racial Gap Nearly Unchanged on WASL Writing Scores

Percent Passing Comparison of Black students to Whites and Asians



## Racial Gap Narrows Slightly on WASL Reading Scores

Percent Passing Comparison of Black students to Whites and Asians



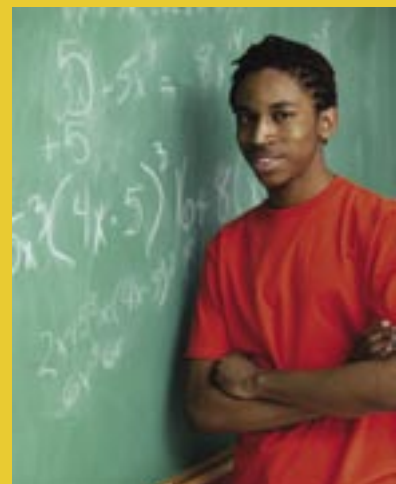
Source: Office of The Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State Report Card, 9/11/06

## Our Views on Washington Learns

Regarding education reform, we want the same things that Gov. Chris Gregoire listed as her desired outcomes of the Washington Learns process:

- A bold statement about the future of education
- A compelling vision for our education system that is seamless, world class, and learner focused
- Systemic change that results in a system that is accountable and that raises educational attainment

**If and when these objectives are met, Black students should benefit – especially if their needs are addressed specifically in the final reform package.**



# Participants\*

## May 6, Greater Puget Sound African American Educational Summit

Rosalund Jenkins,  
Key Facilitator

### Participants

Dr. James E. Sulton, Jr. Ph.D.  
Sheila Edwards Lange  
Eddie Reed  
Karen Eitreim  
Dr. Georgia S. McDade Ph.D  
Bizu Gelaye  
Andrew Griffin  
Regina Morton  
Harriette E. Moore  
Charles John Snowden  
Diane Martin  
Kevin C. Washington  
Pauline S. Hill  
Anthony D. Newton  
Hoover Chambliss  
Anthony Todd Rose  
Emile Pitre  
Juanita Ricks  
Frederick Douglass H. Alcorn, Jr.  
Johnny Moore  
Donna Arnold  
Anna-Maria De La Fuente  
Mariah Maki  
W. Davida Stafford  
Felicia E. Gaskins  
Dr. Charles H. Mitchell  
Stephanie D. Flagg-Rhett  
Karen Manuel  
Lynn Coriquo  
Jo Anderson  
Nicole Alston-Abel  
Alice M. Griffin  
Jacquie Jones-Walsh  
Pat Walker  
Charlie Walker  
Tonita Wallace  
Dr. Leon F. "Skip" Rowland  
Rhon white  
Faith McMillion  
Carol Bailey  
Gregory Vaughan  
Christina Rainey  
Joan M. Ray  
Margaret A. Robinson

Sandra Kirk Roston  
Carla Santorno  
Mario Shingult  
Carmen Sidbury  
Dr. James Bernard Smith  
Joseph DeWayne Smith  
Ralph Stevens  
Pamela A. Taylor  
William Collins  
Jamil Lee Thompson  
Ron Walker  
Tony L. Wallace  
Alafiani Washington  
Louis Washington  
Iris Williams West  
Raymond C. Williams  
Don Woodcock  
Sakisha Bailey  
Frederick Douglass H. Alcorn, Jr.  
Johnny Moore  
Donna Arnold  
Anna-Maria De La Fuente  
Mariah Maki  
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Rhon white  
Faith McMillion  
Carol Bailey  
Gregory Vaughan  
Christina Rainey  
Joan M. Ray  
Margaret A. Robinson

## June 12, Black Education Strategy Roundtable

Thelma Jackson,  
Key Facilitator

### Participants

Warren Smith  
Joshua Harrington  
Wanda Brown  
Roger Grant  
Oscar Eason  
Emile Pitre  
Stephanie Miller  
Dr. Geneva Gay  
James Sulton Jr.  
Rosalund Jenkins  
Mary Bearden  
Andy Griffin  
Sheila Edwards-Lange  
Joye Hardiman

Dr. Grace Livingston  
Dr. Thelma Jackson  
Phyllis Beaumonte  
Tony Orange  
Sheley Seacrest  
Doug Wheeler  
Lyle Quasim  
Athena Hightower  
Betty Gray  
Doreen Cato  
James Kelly  
Ernie Dunston  
Rev. Harriet Walden  
Nate Miles

## July 12, Black Education Strategy Roundtable

Outreach planning  
team meeting  
Thelma Jackson,  
Key Facilitator

### Participants

Dr. Roger Grant  
Dr. Gloria Mitchell  
Dr. Geneva Gay  
Dr. Pam Bridges  
Dr. James Smith  
Dr. Thelma Jackson  
Paris Bridges  
Wanda Brown  
Athena Hightower  
Robert Easterly  
Oscar Eason  
Rosalund Jenkins  
Mary Bearden  
Joshua Harrington

## June 29, Ethnic Commission Education Roundtable

Rosalund Jenkins,  
Key Facilitator

### Participants

Adie Simmons  
Akeni Matsumoto  
Alice Coil  
Alicia Luna  
Andrew Griffin  
Ann Daley  
Ben Kodama  
Bill Coleman  
Blanca Fernandez  
Caprice Hollins  
Christie Perkins  
Connie Rickman  
Dana Richardson  
David Fuller  
Don Woodcock  
Dr. Michael Tate  
Dr. Thelma A. Jackson  
Elizabeth Swanasett  
Ellen Abellera  
Enrique Morales  
Ermelindo Escobedo  
Ernie Dunston  
Eunice Santiago  
Gabriel Portugal  
Gerita Cochran  
Israel Vela  
Israel David Mendoza  
Jessica Upton  
Jovi Legasi  
Judy Hartmann  
Karen Tvedt  
Kathy Purcell  
Kristin Wiggins  
Laurie Dolan  
Leslie Goldstein  
Lisa Kodama  
Lourdes Salazar  
Lucinda Young  
Martha Davies  
Martha Hernando Davies  
Mary Bearden  
Mary Alice Scott

Mike Britt  
Mohamed Roble  
Nancy Talner  
Nate Caminos  
Nissa Iverson  
Olga V. Fuste  
Oscar Eason Jr.  
Pam Bridges  
Paola Maranan  
Paul Gallegos  
Paul Ganalon  
Pepsy Wirth  
Phouang Soxiengmey-Hamilton  
Phyllis M. Beaumonte  
Phyllis M. Lowe  
R. Laura Villanueva  
Randi Abrams  
Ricardo Leyva-Puebla  
Rodrigo L. Barron  
Rogelio Burgos  
Rosalund Jenkins  
Rose Ehart  
Rosemary McAuliffe  
Ruben Carerra  
Sara Pete  
Sharon Green  
Sheila Edwards-Lange  
Stephan Blanford  
Stephanie Gardner  
Suzette Espinoza-Cruz  
Ted Glazer  
Thuy Vu  
Tom L. Hilyard  
Tony Orange  
Trise Moore  
Uriel Iniguez  
Vicki Asakura  
Wanda Brown  
Warren T. Smith Sr.  
William "Bill" Coleman  
Yvonne Lopez-Morton

\*Thank you to all participants. Being listed here is not intended to be reflective of an endorsement of the recommendations or views expressed herein.

